



#24

Patent Application  
Attorney Docket No.: NC30313

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|   |   |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|
| In re Application of: Brana Kukic       | ) |                      |
|   | ) |                      |
| Serial No.: 09/751,581                  | ) | Examiner: Not Known  |
|   | ) |                      |
| Filed: December 29, 2000                | ) |                      |
|   | ) |                      |
| For: Method and System for Establishing | ) | Group Art Unit: 2661 |
| Link Bit Rate for Inverse Multiplexed   | ) |                      |
| Data Streams                            | ) |                      |

To the Honorable Commissioner  
of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application for patent, please  
amend same as shown below.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraphs 11 and 16 with the amended paragraphs 11 and  
16 as follows:

**[0011]** (Amended) A system and method are provided for determining link characteristics in order to calculate the optimal data rate. The system includes a first unit at a first location coupled to one end of each of a plurality of low capacity data links for assisting in determining the characteristics of each of the links using a test signal transmitted over each of the links, a second unit at the second location coupled to the other end of each of the links for assisting in determining the characteristics of each of the links based on the characteristics of the test signal received at the second unit, and a processor coupled to the second unit for determining the optimal transmission rate based on the characteristics of the links and the number of links needed to provide the desired transmission rate.